

to tell the teams apart,

I have a suggestion for the National Basketball
Association:
divide the teams on the basis of
color.

There could be the same number of teams as now,
but half would be all-white and the other half all-black.

Or there could be more teams: instead of the L.A. Lakers
there could be the Watts Blacks and the Beach Whites.

I think the matchups would be interesting:
Jabbar-Walton, Erving-Barry, Gervin-Westphal,
and so on?
Aren't these the squarings-off
that everyone seems most excited by anyway?

I mean instead of our country being
surreptitiously obsessed by race,
let's get our fears, hatreds, partisanships
right out into the open.
Change the above, in fact,
to Watts Niggers and Beverly Hills Honkies.

I don't consider this idea the least bit ridiculous.
How is it different from the Olympics?
And, if over fifty percent of the whites in L.A.
are opposed to integration of the schools --
not just busing, mind you, but integration itself --
how is the other system working?
My idea may be the safety valve
to short-circuit racial holocaust.

I haven't figured out yet
which side gets the Orientals and Chicanos.
They can't be counted on
to remain short indefinitely.

PROCESS OF DEDUCTION

when our friend's face met the floor,
someone said,

"find out where he's been drinking!
they must pour the last honest drink
in town!"